

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The action by the Examiner of this application, together with the cited references, have been given careful consideration. Following such consideration, claims 1, 4, 11, 14, 22, 25, 32, and 35, have been amended to define more clearly the patentable invention applicant believes is disclosed herein. In addition, claims 2, 3, 12, 13, 23, 24, 33, and 34, have been canceled and claims 5-10, 15-21, 26-31, and 36-39 have been unchanged by the present amendment paper. This amendment is presented according to "Revised Amendment Practice" (37 C.F.R. 1.121), effective July 30, 2003. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the claims in their present form, together with the following comments, and allow the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 11, 22, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,260,024 to Shkedy in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,960,411 to Hartman et al.

In a telephone conversation with the undersigned held on November 6, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the language from claims 3, 13, 24, and 34 should be amended to read "when the timer expires" from "if the timer expires." The Examiner also indicated that claims 1, 11, 22, and 32 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of claims 3, 13, 24, and 34 respectively and to identify whether the order includes any narcotic or other controlled substance that are subject to an ordering restriction.

The claims have been amended to address the Examiner's recommendations. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of claim 3. Likewise, claim 11 has been amended to include limitations of claim 13; claim 22 has been amended to include limitations of claim 24; and claim 32 has been amended to include limitations of claim 34.

In addition, claims 1 and 11 have also been amended to read as follows: "the secure procurement system communicates with the user and the certificate authority to authenticate that the user is entitled to order said goods/services." Likewise, claim 22 has been amended to read, "authenticating that the user is entitled to order said goods/services" and claim 32 has been amended to read, "receiving at the secure procurement system authentication that the user is entitled to order said good/services".

The applicant respectfully submits that the prior art does not teach, suggest or show a method or system where a secure procurement system authenticates that a user is entitled to purchase certain goods or services. The applicant believes that these amendments to claims 1, 11, 22, and 32 distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art and address the Examiner's suggestion to add a limitation identifying whether the order includes any narcotic or other controlled substances that are subject to an ordering restriction.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 11, 22, and 32 are now in condition for allowance. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 4-10, 13-21, 25-31, and 35-39, depend from claims 1, 11, 22 and 32 respectively, and are therefore also now in condition for allowance.

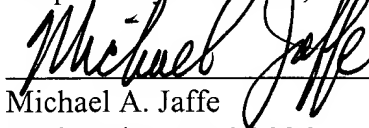
It is noted that U.S. Patent No. 5,638,519 to Haluska was included with the Office Action received by the applicant. However, this document was not listed in PTO Form 892, provided by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that U.S. Patent No. 5,638,519 to Haluska be properly identified on a PTO Form 892, to officially acknowledge consideration of this reference by the Examiner.

The applicant respectfully submits that the present amendment puts the present application in condition for allowance per the Examiner's comments during the telephone interview of November 6, 2003. However, if the Examiner believes there are any further matters which need to be discussed in order put the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0537, referencing our Docket No. SW7181US.

Date: May 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: May 26, 2004


Name: Crystal Belknap